

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9568

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION; REACTION TO WASHINGTON
POST EDITORIAL

REF: A) SANTIAGO 4381, B) SANTIAGO 4488

1. ALTHOUGH DIMINISHING, ATTENTION CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON
THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL CALLING FOR PINOCHET TO STEP
DOWN IN VIEW OF HIS SUSPECTED KNOWLEDGE AND POSSIBLE IN-
VOLVEMENT IN THE LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION. RE B
REPORTED THE INITIAL MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF OFFENDED CHILEAN
NATIONALISM. CONSERVATIVE SECTORS ARE ANGRY OVER WHAT
THEY CONSIDER UNWARRANTED AND UNSOLICITED POLITICAL
FORMULAS FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL ALLY TO THE NORTH.
IRONICALLY REMINISCENT OF ALLENDE PERIOD, GOC SUPPORTERS
ARE BRANDING THE U.S. AS AN IMPERIALISTIC AND ARROGANT
POWER, PICKING ON AN INDEFENSELESS AND WEAK COUNTRY.
TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CAPTURE THE CHILEAN SENTIMENT:
BLARING HEADLINES "LET CARTER RESIGN" JUNE 14 IN DAILY
"LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS", WITH AN INSIDE STORY CITING
"INTERVIEWS" WITH THE MAN ON THE STREET WHO BELIEVES
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AMERICANS SHOULD ASK PRESIDENT CARTER TO STEP DOWN;
A WIDELY REPORTED STORY THAT THE GOC-SPONSORED FRENTE
LABORAL HAS ASKED PINOCHET FOR PERMISSION TO STAGE A
"NATIONAL PROTEST MARCH" OVER THE POST EDITORIAL AND,
MORE GENERALLY, U.S. IMPERIALISM.

2. MEANWHILE, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) --

TAGGED BY THE POST AS CAPABLE OF HEADING A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT -- ATTEMPTED TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE EDITORIAL. IN A STATEMENT PRINTED IN THE PRESS JUNE 14, THE PDC "REJECTS IMPUTATIONS" THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT ANY FORMULA FOR THE SELECTION OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES OTHER THAN THAT OF "THE FREE AND SOVEREIGN DETERMINATION OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE" -- FREE OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE OR INTEREST. THE STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT THE PARTY HAS NEVER GONE TO FOREIGN FORUMS TO EXPOUND ITS POINT OF VIEW ON THE CHILEAN REALITY, EVEN WHEN THAT RIGHT HAS BEEN DENIED TO ITS MEMBERS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND STATES THAT INSTEAD OF HAVING FALSE CHARGES THROWN AGAINST THE PARTY, ANSWERS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CITIZENS' QUESTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ON THOSE "DEEDS WHICH HAVE COMPROMISED" THE GOC.

3. MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE LETELIER CASE HAS BEEN LIGHT, ALTHOUGH INTEREST REMAINS KEEN ON THE ON-GOING GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW SHORTLY AFTER SHE ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON JUNE 9, MARIANA CALLEJAS SUMMED UP HER STATEMENTS BEFORE THE GRAND JURY, SAYING: THAT HUSBAND TOWNLEY HAD PLACED THE BOMB UNDER LETELIER'S CAR; THAT CUBANS VIRGILIO PAZ AND JOSE SUAREZ PROBABLY DETONATED THE DEVICE; THAT PROPPER WILL SEEK EXTRADITION OF EX-DINA HEAD MANUEL CONTRERAS, CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ AND COLONEL PEDRO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESPINOZA; THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE "ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO FILL UP A WHOLE ROOM", AND THAT FBI AGENT CARTER CORNICK WOULD SOON BE RETURNING TO CHILE." THIS WEEK'S "HOY" MAGAZINE CLAIMS THAT THE POST EDITORIAL "CONFIRMS THE THESIS" THAT THE PDC CONTINUES TO ENJOY ACCEPTANCE IN WASHINGTON. LANDAU

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NNN

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